

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

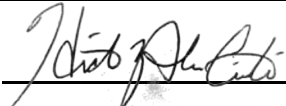
1. Name of PropertyHistoric name: Butler Veterans Administration Hospital Historic DistrictOther names/site number: Western Pennsylvania Tuberculosis Sanitarium; Deshon General Hospital; Butler Veterans Affairs Medical CenterName of related multiple property listing: United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958**2. Location**Street & number: 325 New Castle RoadCity or town: Butler TownshipState: PACounty: ButlerNot For Publication: NAVicinity: NA**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

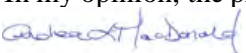
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

☐ national ☒ statewide ☐ local Applicable National Register Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

	4/14/2022
Signature of certifying official	Date
VA Federal Preservation Officer	
Title/State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
	4/13/2022
Signature of commenting official	Date
Andrea L. MacDonald, PA Deputy SHPO	
Deputy SHPO, Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission	
Title/State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain:) _____

Lisa Delina

Signature of the Keeper

5/27/2022

Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private: ☐
Public – Local ☐
Public – State ☐
Public – Federal ☒

Category of Property (Check only **one** box.)

Building(s) ☐
District ☒
Site ☐
Structure ☐
Object ☐

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>17</u>	<u>10</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>18</u>	<u>11</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: HEALTH CARE / hospital

Current Functions: HEALTH CARE / hospital

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

LATE 19th AND 20th CENTURY REVIVALS: Tudor Revival
No Style

Materials:

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK; STONE: limestone, slate

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Butler Veterans Administration Hospital Historic District (Butler VAHHD) consists of a late 1930s state tuberculosis sanatorium, which had never been activated, that was taken over by the U.S. Army to be used as a hospital during World War II. Postwar, the Army transferred the facility to the Veterans Administration (VA) to provide modern medical care to a burgeoning Veteran population. Each agency constructed buildings on the campus through multiple phases of development; the campus is a mix of building types, ranging from the massive main hospital building to utilitarian outbuildings, without a cohesive campus style. The 88 acre district, on the outskirts of Butler approximately 30 miles north of Pittsburgh, has a total of twenty-nine resources; seventeen contributing buildings, one contributing structure, ten non-contributing buildings, and one non-contributing structure. All non-contributing resources post-date 1958, the end of the period of significance. Ten buildings remain from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's initial period of construction (1939-1942). Seven buildings and one structure date to the Army's Deshon General Hospital period (1942-1946). Nine buildings and one structure were constructed by VA since it took over the facility (1946 to present day). One building on the hospital grounds was constructed by Butler County ca.2004. While the buildings of the state hospital exhibit more stylistic elements, particularly some Tudor Revival characteristics, and the Army buildings are strictly functional, the campus is tied together through the use of brick as the common exterior treatment. The Butler VAHHD retains many of the original hospital buildings and the Army support facilities; many of the

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wards and staff housing buildings added by the Army were removed by VA over the years to accommodate changes in healthcare needs. The district retains integrity aspects of location, setting, workmanship, materials, and association via the continued use of the original buildings on the campus to provide medical care to Veterans.

Narrative Description

The Butler VAHHD consists of 88 acres on an irregularly shaped parcel northwest of Butler, Pennsylvania, located approximately 30 miles north of Pittsburgh. The site, while once predominately rural, now sits surrounded by late twentieth century development, including the Butler U.S. Army Reserve Center.¹ The Butler VAHHD consists of a variety of buildings built for different purposes by different owners. Together, the campus illustrates the change from a never-activated state tuberculosis sanatorium to an expanded Army hospital, and eventually to the current VA hospital, with the main building retaining its primacy within the site. The hospital facility has experienced alterations commensurate with other Third Generation hospitals (VA hospitals constructed between 1946 and 1958) to accommodate the ever-changing needs of modern healthcare.²

The current arrangement of the Butler VAHHD buildings consists of a main hospital building (Building #1) serving as the organizing principle for the campus. Building #1 sits in the northeastern portion of the campus, adjacent to the primary entrance to the campus from New Castle Road; the building is not shielded from the road by extensive landscaping or a deep setback. Patient treatment buildings, both historically and currently, have clustered around Building #1, leaving Building #1 as the primary focal point as patients, visitors, and staff access the facility via New Castle Road and the main entrance of Building #1.

Landscaping efforts are minimal and largely limited to shrubs and other small plantings close to the individual buildings. A review of historic aerials suggests there was little landscaping along New Castle Road, save some scattered plantings near the main entrance. Vegetation covered the southwestern portion of the property, but extensive formal landscaping does not appear to be part of the design or plan for the Butler facility. As the facility demolished the former Army wards buildings that were once located to the rear of Building #1, the space became parking lot; demolition of buildings did not lead to additional landscaping measures. Trees and other plantings were added to the northeast portion of the campus; combined with the maturing trees near the entrance, these features provide some screening of the hospital campus from the adjacent roadway (photos 28 and 29).³

¹ The Army Reserve Center was constructed ca. 1960 and has no formal ties to the adjacent VA hospital; the properties are separated by a chain link fence.

² The "Third Generation" of Veterans hospital were those facilities constructed by the Veterans Administration to provide modern healthcare to a burgeoning Veteran population following World War II following complaints of subservice care and outmoded facilities. The nationwide construction campaign resulted in skyscraper-like main hospital buildings (see the VA facilities in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia) that consolidated patient care in a single facility. In order to meet the demands for healthcare needs while these newer facilities were under development, VA often turned to existing facilities (such as Butler) to provide medical services to Veterans. For more information, please see the *United States Third Generation of Veterans Hospitals National Register Historic Context*, 2018.

³ Review of historic aerial images for 325 New Castle Road, Butler, PA for years 1952, 1962, 1969, 1972, 1983, 1986, 1993, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2013, 2015, 2017, and 2019. Available online at <https://www.historicaerials.com/viewer> (accessed 8 March 2022).

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A 1949 sketch map of the campus (see map on page 29) shows a baseball diamond, golf course, and tennis court clustered together to the southeast of Building #4. A review of historic aerials for the campus suggest these facilities, likely inherited from the Army, were not long in service by VA. Little evidence of the recreation facilities remain by the late 1960s; the area had transferred out of VA hands and had become a development of single family homes by the early 2000s.⁴

The looping roads of the Butler VAHHD remain consistent with their early configuration; roadways lead from the main entrance on New Castle Road to the main hospital building (Building #1) and connect to the other main buildings and support facilities of the campus. Some roads have been extended as needed to reach new construction. Currently, primary access to the complex is provided via New Castle Road. A secondary entrance from PA Route 68 via the southwestern border of the campus was added to the campus by the early 1970s; this has trees on both sides, but it is not a formally-planned landscape feature. At the time of the site visit, this entrance had been temporarily closed due to Covid-19-related safety and security measures.

Buildings that house support activities, such as the chiller plant, are grouped together in the northwestern portion of the campus and removed from the healthcare-focused buildings. The former nurses' quarters (Building #3) stands alone in the southeastern portion of campus. VA has added new construction to all portions of campus, including additional patient care (such as the Community Living Center (Building #20)) and support facilities (such as the chiller plant (Building #30)). Surface parking has been added to the portion of campus between Building #1 and the complex of support facilities to the northwest and smaller surface lots are scattered across the campus.

The original patient care buildings tend to be the former buildings constructed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as part of the tuberculosis sanitarium while the original support facilities were constructed by the U.S. Army when the hospital was converted during World War II to provide care to servicemen. The buildings constructed by the Army during the Deshon General Hospital period are utilitarian buildings with no architectural ornamentation. The Army also was responsible for the series of connecting corridors, also built of brick, that linked together the former ward buildings. The other buildings from the Army period include boiler plant, warehouse, fire station, and various storage facilities.

As VA healthcare needs changed over the years, it demolished buildings that were no longer needed or did not meet modern medical needs. The network of Army ward buildings constructed behind Building #1 began to be demolished. Six were demolished by 1969; by 2009, only five remained and the last one was demolished around 2014. In total, about 18 ward buildings and the network of connecting corridors were demolished. VA also demolished recreation buildings, including a theater, game hall, and bowling alleys, along with staffing quarters located to the south of the ward buildings; these buildings were gradually demolished starting in the 1950s and had all been removed by 2013.

The dates of construction, current use, and details regarding the former use of the following buildings are from the VA's internal inventories, including the Capital Asset Inventory, and from information provided by the hospital's engineering department. The building numbers below reflect the number assigned by VA.

⁴National Hospital Day Program Map, 1949. Collections of Weir Genealogy Room, Butler Area Public Library, Butler, PA. Accessed online at <https://butlerhistorical.org/items/show/49#&gid=1&pid=2> (accessed 8 March 2022); review of historic aerial images for 325 New Castle Road, Butler, PA for years 1952, 1962, 1969, 1972, 1983, 1986, 1993, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2013, 2015, 2017, and 2019. Available online at <https://www.historicaerials.com/viewer> (accessed 8 March 2022)

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Smaller components of the site, such as benches, picnic shelters, small sheds and generators, have not been inventoried or included in the Resource Count.

Building No.	Current Use	Year Constructed	Status	Constructed by
1	Main Hospital	1938	Contributing	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
2	CLC Support	1938	Contributing	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
3	Vacant	1938	Contributing	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4	Vocational Rehabilitation Program	1938	Contributing	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5	Deshon House (Housing)	1938	Contributing	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6	Laundry	1938	Contributing	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
7	Boiler Plant	1938	Contributing	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8	Shop	1938	Contributing	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
9	Warehouse / Storage	1938	Contributing	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
10	Electrical Shop	1938	Contributing	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
20	Community Living Center (nursing home)	2011	Non-contributing	VA
21	Domiciliary (residential rehabilitation) / Administration	2012	Non-contributing	VA
22	Domiciliary	2011	Non-contributing	VA
23	Domiciliary	2011	Non-contributing	VA
24	Domiciliary	2011	Non-contributing	VA
25	Domiciliary	2011	Non-contributing	VA
30	Chiller Plant	2012	Non-contributing	VA
35	Electric / IT	2015	Non-contributing	VA
41	Oil Storage	1944	Contributing	U.S. Army
45	Chlorine House	1944	Contributing	U.S. Army
46	Facility Management	1944	Contributing	U.S. Army
47	Warehouse	1944	Contributing	U.S. Army
48	Fire Station	1944	Contributing	U.S. Army
51	Warehouse	1944	Contributing	U.S. Army
66	Warehouse	1944	Contributing	U.S. Army
99	Switch Gear	2005	Non-contributing	VA
100	Water Tower	1944	Contributing	U.S. Army
132	Smoking Shelter	1994	Non-contributing	VA

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The following building is located on the grounds of the Butler VA hospital, but it is not part of VA or the Butler hospital, and was constructed on behalf of Butler County.

--	Current Use	Year Constructed	Status	Built by
TRC	Bulter County Transitional Care Center	ca.2004	Non-contributing	Butler County

Building #1

Historic / Present Use: Main Hospital Building

Year Built: 1938

Status: Contributing

The main hospital building (Building #1) was intended as the primary facility, likely for both medical care and administrative purposes, for the state tuberculosis sanatorium in 1938. Building #1 is the largest buildings on campus, with total gross square footage of 223,320 feet, over four times as large as the next largest building on campus (Building #20 at 52,280 square feet). Readily visible from the adjacent roadway and the main campus entrance, the building has the most extensive architectural details and serves as the building which the entire campus is organized around.

The five-story building has an irregular footprint, projecting wings of lower heights than the main block, a brick exterior, Tudor Revival architectural details expressed in limestone, and a standing seam metal roof. The building is oriented towards the northeast and the main access road, New Castle Road, to the hospital complex (photo #1). While the extant windows on Building #1 are not original, VA has recently removed ill-fitting aluminum windows that required infill panes painted bright yellow with more visually appropriate multi-paned windows that echo the original windows of the sanatorium. The main central block rises to a height of five stories, while the outermost eight bays dropping to four stories. This interplay of varying heights highlights the central portion of the main hospital building, further accentuated with a mid-slope pyramidal roof crowned by a cupola.

On the northeast (primary) elevation, the main entrance is emphasized via limestone ashlar blocks and the large Tudor arch framing the door (photo #2). The door itself has been replaced, likely to meet current healthcare and access standards. The main lobby beyond the main entrance has also been heavily modified, including replacement of the flooring and wall coverings. The underlying Tudor arch appears to be intact underneath a steel frame that imitates the shape. At the center three bays of the northeast façade and mimicked at the outer bays of the center block of Building #1, bands of limestone frame each window; the limestone details carry upward three stories and terminate in Tudor arches. Between these limestone bands, spandrels feature brick laid in a Flemish bond pattern with alternating project headers unlike the common bond of the remainder of the façade. These Tudor Revival features are repeated across the façade (photo #3).

Two-story wings project from the northeast elevation. These wings have rectangular footprints, standing seam metal roofs, and limestone architectural features contrasting against the predominately red brick cladding. The limestone stringcourses, arch over the doorway at the northeast end, and spandrels are all constructed of ashlar blocks. As with the central portion of the building, the doors and windows have been replaced (photo #4). The southern wing contains the auditorium. Extant historic features of the auditorium

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include the stage, wood wall paneling, and the crown molding, but carpet has been added and any original furniture, such as seating, has been removed.

The limestone panels on the northeast façade include a number of various symbols, many indicative of the original construction as a state healthcare facility. Above the arches is a decorative limestone band incorporating the Greek cross, commonly associated with the International Committee of the Red Cross. Other decorative emblems include a keystone, an emblem of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and shields depicted with various symbols such as plows, eagles, and ships.

The northwest elevation includes a brick addition, constructed ca. 1995, filling in the space between the main corridor and the northernmost projecting wing on the southwest elevation. The one-story addition is minimally invasive to the historic character of the hospital building.

On the southwest (rear) elevation, the projecting wings are four stories in height and considerably less elaborate than the wings on the northeast elevation (photo #5). The rear wings culminate in a hexagonal form. While the central three bays retain the limestone detailing found on the northeast façade, the overall façade is considerably plainer, lacking the extensive limestone details and decorative panels save a single limestone stringcourse.

The southeast elevation features the same red brick as the other portions of the building, but has minimal architectural ornamentation.

Building #1 is connected to Building #2 via a glass-enclosed corridor with a metal-clad gable roof and brick lower section constructed ca. 2004. The connecting corridor links from the southeast end of Building #1 to the northwest elevation of Building #2.

On the southwest elevation, a two-story truncated corridor extends from the façade towards the surface parking lot (photo 27). One part of the network of corridors that linked the main hospital building to the Army-constructed ward buildings once sited to the southwest of Building #1, the corridor is clad in red brick, has a shallow gable roof, and limestone banding framing double-hung windows. Arched openings at the lower level provide vehicular access under the corridor.

Building #2

Historic Use: Children's Building / Nurses Quarters

Present Use: Community Living Center Support

Year Built: 1938

Status: Contributing

Constructed for treatment of children and later used as nurses' quarters, Building #2 is located directly southeast of Building #1, oriented perpendicular to the main hospital building and connected to the hospital and the Community Living Center (Building #20) via a corridor. The building has a rectangular footprint, shallow roof clad in standing seam metal, and Tudor Revival architectural details (photo #6). The two-story building uses the same brick and limestone treatment for the exterior, with substantial limestone door surrounds (photo #7).

On Building #2, the limestone panels on the exterior do not feature the same symbols as those on Building #1. Instead, the rectangular panels depict figures traditionally associated with medical care, such as a figure

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holding a Rod of Asclepius, and figures representing aspects of tuberculosis treatments of the period, such as sun, rest, and air (photo #8). Several of these panels repeat across the northwest and southeast elevations of the building.

The northwest (main) elevation features the same red brick as the Building #1 exterior; it is laid in common bond with sixth row headers. As with Building #1, the original windows have been removed and replaced with multipane metal windows. The building has a symmetrical appearance; as with Building #1, the central bay and main entrance are emphasized via limestone panels and an arched doorway. The entrances are framed by segmented arches framed by limestone ashlar blocks.

The three bays of the northeast and southwest elevations feature the same red brick, limestone stringcourse, and metal windows of the other two elevations. Figurative limestone panels serve as the primary decorative feature.

On the southeast elevation of Building #2, a short brick-clad corridor links Building #2 to Building #20. Completed in conjunction with the construction of Building #20 (completed in 2011), the corridor has a shallow gable roof clad in asphalt shingles and fixed windows.

Building #3

Historic Use: Nurses Quarters

Present Use: Vacant

Year Built: 1938

Status: Contributing

The former quarters for the nursing staff is currently vacant (photo #9). The building is located at the southeast corner of the campus, separated from the main hospital complex, likely to give some degree of privacy and respite for the nurses. Building #3 is also oriented at a slightly different angle, leaving the windows with views of the property and not the main hospital building. The building is three stories in height, clad in the same red brick as the other historic buildings on campus, and features the same limestone detailing, particularly at the central entrance and water table. A small cupola crowns the roof at the center, referencing the cupola of the main hospital building. The hip roof is covered in asphalt shingles. As with the main hospital building, the original windows have been removed; unlike Buildings #1 and #2, these windows have not been replaced with more appropriate windows.

The north (main) façade is symmetrical in appearance. Like Buildings #1 and #2, the main entrance is emphasized through limestone details and an arched doorway. The limestone panels are more muted in design on Building #3, but two small ones feature a Rod of Asclepius with the word “mercy” and a book with the word “loyalty.” Plain panels are located above the windows on the first floor and select windows on the third floors.

A stair hall addition and small entrance lobby have been added to the east elevation. The entrance lobby is one-story and encased in glass.

The south (rear) elevation features the same red brick exterior with limestone decorative pieces. The south elevation has the same configuration of limestone panels as the north elevation and the entrances on the east and west ends are also framed out in limestone ashlar blocks. A one-story wing projects from the center of the south elevation.

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On the west elevation, the canopy over the entrance appears to have been modified to include a loading dock. The exterior treatment of limestone panels and brick continues on this elevation.

Building #4

Historic Use: Housekeeping Quarters

Present Use: Compensated Work Therapy (vocational rehabilitation program)

Year Built: 1938

Status: Contributing

Building #5

Historic Use: Supply Office

Present Use: Enhanced Use Lease (Housing)

Year Built: 1938

Status: Contributing

Buildings #4 and #5 appear to be identical. Both brick two story buildings are modest in scale with limestone trim at the doorways referencing the Tudor arches of the main hospital building. A projecting bay with a parapet roof marks one end of each building. The original slate roof appears to be intact on both buildings, but handicap ramps have been added to the primary entrances. Hexagonal one-story projecting bays contain the main entrances to the building. In the spandrels and several of the voussoirs in the segmented arches over the windows, the brick has been molded with decorative nature-inspired motifs, such as oak trees and leaves.

Building #4 once held housekeeping services, but now is part of the vocational rehabilitation program (photo #10). Unlike Building #5, Building #4 is isolated at the rear of campus.

Building #5, once the supply office and now housing under an enhanced use lease agreement for housing for Veterans, the building stands more centrally located near the main hospital building (photos #11 and #12). A large addition (Building #5A), constructed ca. 2008, extends from Building #5 to the south via an elevated corridor clad in concrete panels with fixed windows and a shallow gable roof; the two-story addition is also of red brick with a hip roof clad in asphalt shingles.

Building #6

Historic / Present Use: Laundry

Year Built: 1938

Status: Contributing

The laundry remains in its historic location at the western edge of campus, near other support building (photo #13). Building #6 is a one-story brick building with a hip roof punctured by multiple commercial vents. Several former window openings have since been sealed, but other six pane sash windows appear to be original to the period of construction. A loading dock appears to be a later addition.

Building #7

Historic / Present Use: Power House / Boiler House

Year Built: 1938

Status: Contributing

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The boiler house is a utilitarian brick building located with other support buildings in a small cluster to the west of the main hospital buildings (photo #14). As with the other historic buildings on campus, the building is clad in red brick with limestone caps for the pilasters. The boiler plant retains the large, probably original, windows that run almost the entire height of the building, although one may have been altered to create an entrance. The rear portion of the boiler house is one story in height, with a sloping shed roof resulting in an elevation partially clad in vinyl siding; the shed roof is a modification from the original flat roof.

Building #8

Historic Use: Garage

Present Use: Maintenance Shop

Year Built: 1938

Status: Contributing

The former garage now houses the maintenance shop for the Butler facility. The utilitarian building is a low rise, one story brick building with no architectural ornamentation (photo #15); the building is strictly functional. The building is part of the collection of support building at the western portion of campus. The south elevation features a large opening, likely once a garage door, that has since been enclosed.

Building #9

Historic / Present Use: Garage

Year Built: 1938

Status: Contributing

Building #10

Historic / Present Use: Electrical shop

Year Built: 1938

Status: Contributing

Buildings #9 and #10 are almost identical utilitarian brick garages oriented towards a central paved area created within the collection of support buildings. The westernmost garage bay on Building #9 has been altered to create a pedestrian, rather than vehicular, entrance point. Both structures are brick clad one story buildings with side gable roofs clad in asphalt shingle. As these are small scale dependency buildings, they do not exhibit any of the architectural ornament or limestone detailing found in the other historic buildings of the Butler campus.

Building #20

Present Use: Community Living Center (CLC)

Year Built: 2011

Status: Non-Contributing

The Community Living Center (nursing home) is a one-story building located to the south east of Building #1 (photo #17). The building has an irregular footprint, exterior clad in red brick and synthetic stucco, and slab foundation. Multiple low-rise gable roofs sheathed in asphalt shingles cover the building. Oriented towards the north, the main elevation features a shallow entrance portico and plain entrance. The site's

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topography combined with the low profile of the building results in only the upper portions of the walls and roofs visible from the south and west.

Buildings #21

Present Use: Domiciliary (residential rehabilitation) / Administration

Year Built: 2012

Status: Non-Contributing

Building #21 is part of a cluster of domiciliary buildings sited to the southwest of Building #1. Building #21 is a low-rise, one-story building clad in brick and synthetic stucco. The building has a slab foundation, irregular footprint, plain exterior, and main entrance located on the north corner. The gable roofs are clad in asphalt shingles.

Buildings #22, 23, 24, and 25

Present Use: Domiciliary (residential rehabilitation)

Year Built: 2011

Status: Non-Contributing

These four buildings are organized around a courtyard with Building #21 to create a domiciliary unit at the Butler facility (photos #18 and #19). Three of the residential buildings for Veterans are two stories in height (Buildings #22, 23, and #24), clad in red brick and synthetic stucco, and feature cross gable roofs clad in asphalt shingles; Building #25 has the same exterior treatments but is only one story in height. The windows have fixed panes and faux muntins. The multi-part façades give the buildings a townhouse-like appearance. The buildings have irregular footprints, slab foundations, and minimal architectural ornament.

Building #30

Present Use: Chiller Plant

Year Built: 2012

Status: Non-Contributing

The chiller plant is located in the northwest portion of the campus near the cluster of support facilities. This two-story utilitarian building has a red brick exterior, shallow gable roof clad in metal, a slab foundation, and a plain exterior. Oriented towards the southeast, the building has an asymmetrical appearance due to the arrangement of windows, a garage door, vented openings, and a single door.

Building #35

Present Use: Electric / IT Building

Year Built: ca. 2015

Status: Non-Contributing

This utilitarian small, one-story prefabricated building is sited to the south of Building #3. This metal-clad building has a single door on the west elevation, a flat roof, slab foundation, and no architectural ornamentation.

Building #41

Historic / Present Use: Oil Storage

Year Built: 1944

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Status: Contributing

Located in the northwestern part of the campus with the other support buildings, this utilitarian, one-story brick building has a single door on the southeast elevation (photo #20). The pyramidal roof is clad in asphalt shingles. The building has a plain exterior and lacks architectural ornamentation.

Building #45

Historic / Present Use: Chlorine House

Year Built: 1944

Status: Contributing

The small utilitarian building utilized as the chlorine house (used for water treatment) is located in the northeastern portion of campus, removed from the main hospital buildings as well as the support buildings. The building has a red brick exterior, square footprint, plain exterior, pyramidal roof clad in asphalt shingles, and a single window on the northeast elevation (photo #21).

Building #46⁵

Historic Use: Engineer and Shops

Present Use: Facility Management

Year Built: 1944

Status: Contributing

The facility management building is a large irregular C-shaped building located near the other support buildings, such as the boiler house and laundry (photo #22). The central courtyard created by the building features a large water tower (Structure #100) and a surface parking lot. The one-story utilitarian brick building was constructed by the Army and is reflective of its pragmatic approach to architecture at the Butler facility. Building #46 does not have any of the limestone details found on the other buildings on campus. Nor does it have a clearly defined central entrance; there are several entrances on the courtyard side, each plain with no architectural ornamentation. The building's appearance resembles a series of smaller buildings strung together, with isolated parapets and shifting rooflines; overall, the building has a hip roof covered in asphalt shingles. The carpenter shop, located at the southwest, has a slightly larger footprint than the remainder of the building. The building has experienced some alterations, including replacement windows and altered openings, such as windows removed and the resulting open spaces infilled with red brick.

Building #47

Historic / Present Use: Warehouse

Year Built: 1944

Status: Contributing

The utilitarian warehouse is a one-story brick building with a large rectangular footprint and shallow gable roof clad in asphalt shingles (photo #23). The building sits between the main hospital building and the

⁵ In 2021, VA initiated Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act consultation for the proposed demolition of Building #46 as part of an overall renovation of the campus. At the time of the submittal of this nomination, the building was extant. For more information, see *Memorandum of Agreement Among the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Butler VA Health Care System, The Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Regarding the Demolition of Building 46 and Structure 100 at Butler VA Medical Center, Butler, Butler County, Pennsylvania* (2022).

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cluster of support buildings. The warehouse does not have any extensive architectural detailing or ornamentation other than limited concrete or limestone banding at the windows. Several of the windows have been replaced. As with Building #46, there is no clearly defined main entrance. The flat roof is sheathed in an EPDM rubber membrane.

Building #48

Historic / Present Use: Fire Station
Year Built: 1944
Status: Contributing

The fire station is part of the support building complex and located adjacent to the laundry. The utilitarian building, as with the majority of the resources on the Butler complex, is a one-story brick clad building. A large addition has been added to the north side to provide additional space for vehicle parking. The addition is clad in tan brick that is markedly different from the historic portion of the building. The building has an irregular footprint, multiple roof types that are largely clad in asphalt shingles (one portion is EPDM rubber membrane), and replacement windows.

Building #51

Historic / Present Use: Storage
Year Built: 1944
Status: Contributing

The utilitarian storage building is a simple one-story brick clad building with small louvered openings for ventilation, but no windows (photo #24). It has a low profile, rectangular footprint, and no architectural ornamentation. A single leaf metal door is on the east elevation.

Building #66

Historic Use: Labor Shop
Present Use: Storage
Year Built: 1944
Status: Contributing

The former labor shop is part of the collection of support buildings located at the western portion of campus. The building has a rectangular footprint, front gable roof clad in asphalt shingles, slab foundation, and plain exterior. The historic portion of the building is a simple brick one-story utilitarian building with a bank of original sash windows on the east elevation. In ca. 2009, the building was expanded to the south; the addition expanded the building, added another vehicular door, and reconfigured the roof.

Building #99

Present Use: Generator
Year Built: 2005
Status: Non-contributing

The generator building sits to the west of one of the projecting wings of the main hospital building. The small utilitarian building mimics the historic buildings of the Butler facility with its brick exterior and limestone banding, but the white vinyl siding at the gable end marks the building as a later addition to the

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campus. The building has a rectangular footprint, gable roof clad in asphalt shingles, and a slab foundation. As with many of the support buildings on campus, the building is purely functional in appearance.

Structure #100⁶

Historic/Present Use: Water Tower
Year Built: ca. 1944
Status: Contributing

This hemispherical steel water tank is supported by multiple columns and is located within the central courtyard created by the configuration of Building #46 (photo #25). The height of this utilitarian structure makes it highly visible from most of the campus.

Building #132

Present Use: Smoking Shelter
Year Built: 1994
Status: Non-contributing

This utilitarian structure used as a space for people to smoke, located off the corridor connection the main hospital building (Building #1) to the rehabilitation services (Building #2), resembles a greenhouse with its metal frame and large screened panels. The building has a rectangular footprint, slab foundation, and plain exterior.

Building: TRC

Present Use: Residential Transitional Care (Operated by Butler County)
Year Built: Ca. 2004
Status: Non-contributing

This building is located in the northwestern portion of the campus; this building is located on the grounds of the Butler VA hospital, but is not part of the VA network or operated by VA. Built and operated by Butler County, the Bette Peoples Transitional Care Center provides residential care to patients while they seek treatment related to mental health. Clad in red brick, the one-story building has an irregular footprint, concrete slab foundation, and a recessed entrance on the southeast elevation. The roof consists of multiple gable roofs; all are clad in asphalt shingles. The building is oriented towards the southeast.

Integrity

The Butler VA Hospital Historic District retains the necessary aspects of integrity to convey its historic foundation and importance.

The Butler VAHHD is an example of a “Third Party Hospital” subtype of VA Third Generation hospitals as it was an existing facility constructed by another agency and pressed into service by VA to meet healthcare demands while VA constructed its own hospitals. As outlined in the MPDF, the registration requirements for these “Third Party Hospitals” include a cohesive building set and architectural character

⁶ In 2021, VA initiated Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act consultation for the proposed demolition of the water tower as part of an overall renovation of the campus. At the time of the submittal of this nomination, the structure was extant. For more information, see *Memorandum of Agreement Among the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Butler VA Health Care System, The Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Regarding the Demolition of Building 46 and Structure 100 at Butler VA Medical Center, Butler, Butler County, Pennsylvania (2022)*.

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from the initial construction, survival of those buildings taken over by VA during the Third Generation period, and the main hospital building of the campus. For the Butler VAHHD, the main components of the original tuberculosis facility survive, as does the main hospital building (Building #1). While many of the Army-constructed buildings have been demolished, the support facilities remain extant and in use.

The complex remains in the same location from when the first buildings were constructed in 1938.

Design integrity is retained through the continued use of the historic circulation patterns and buildings and the relationship between the buildings has remained consistent. While there have been some overall modifications to the campus, notably the demolition of the numerous wards that filled in the area to the southwest of Building #1, along with the recreation buildings and staff quarters that extended further to the south and construction of additional surface parking lots, the organization of the campus around Building #1, and the continued primacy of Building #1 within the campus, remain constant. In addition, newer support facilities, such as Building #30, continued to be constructed in the northwestern portion of campus and removed from buildings focused on patient care and treatment.

Materials integrity is demonstrated via the extant limestone ornamental features on the early buildings, as well as the red brick exteriors of both the sanatorium and Army-era buildings. The exteriors of the buildings have not received new claddings, nor have any of the significant limestone features been removed, resurfaced or replaced. Roofs and windows on several of the buildings have been replaced, but recent efforts on Buildings #1 and #2 have resulted in more appropriate window designs.

These limestone panels and brickwork also ably demonstrate the workmanship integrity of the Butler campus. The overall original construction techniques are evident in both the sanatorium and Army-era buildings on the campus.

Setting integrity has been somewhat compromised due to the modern, recent development that has encroached the property as the hospital is no longer surrounded by greenspace. However, the complex does remain highly visible on a main thoroughfare for Butler and tied to the local community through its treatment of Veterans in Western Pennsylvania.

Feeling integrity is expressed through the overall configuration of the campus has remained consistent, as Building #1 remains the focal point and organizing principle of the campus and has had few changes, particularly to the primary façade.

Integrity of association is exhibited through the continued use as a medical facility despite changes in ownership while not allowing the concessions to modern medical care overwhelm the historic character of the campus.

Overall, the campus has experienced alterations consistent with other Third Generation Veterans hospitals, both to the buildings themselves and the overall campus. Replacement windows and expanded surface parking lots are typical changes; both have happened at the Butler facility. However, the general configuration of the campus buildings, with patient-dedicated buildings at the center clustered around Building #1 and the facility support building removed to the northwestern portion of campus, has remained. The buildings of the sanatorium retain their distinctive Tudor Revival details, limestone decorative elements, and red brick exteriors. While the immediate surrounding area has turned largely commercial, the Butler VA campus retains its historic character and appearance.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

HEALTH / MEDICINE

POLITICS / GOVERNMENT

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1938-1958

Significant Dates

1938; 1942; 1946

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Lee, Edward B.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

U.S. Army

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Butler Veterans Administration Hospital Historic District (Butler VAHHD) is a rare Third Generation hospital, built (but never activated) as a new specialized hospital by a State agency, transformed to temporary wartime hospital by the Army, and eventually converted to a permanent hospital for Veterans.⁷ Although frequently in the post-war period Veterans Administration (VA) took over extant hospitals from the Army, many of these World War II-era hospitals were of impermanent construction; VA often replaced these facilities with more permanent concrete and steel skyscraper hospitals. However, on the outskirts of Butler, in western Pennsylvania, VA acquired a 1939 brick tuberculosis hospital expanded by the U.S. Army during World War II, thus making it an ideal candidate to remain in permanent service. Therefore, there are three historic eras that the Butler VA hospital reflects: the tuberculosis hospital, whose architecture visually dominates the campus despite never being activated (1938-1942); the Army's Deshon General Hospital period, of which very few buildings remain (1942-1946); and the VA Third Generation period (1946-1958). The Butler VA hospital is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places

⁷ The "Third Generation" of Veterans hospitals were those facilities constructed by the Veterans Administration to provide modern healthcare to a burgeoning Veteran population following World War II following complaints of subservice care and outmoded facilities. The nationwide construction campaign resulted in skyscraper-like main hospital buildings (see the VA facilities in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia) that consolidated patient care in a single facility. In order to meet the demands for healthcare needs while these newer facilities were under development, VA often turned to existing facilities (such as Butler) to provide medical services to Veterans. For more information, please see the *United States Third Generation of Veterans Hospitals* National Register Historic Context, 2018.

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under Criterion A as part of the *United States Third Generation of Veterans Hospitals* National Register Historic Context (2018) at a state level of significance. The hospital is also eligible under Criterion C at the state level for being an important example of the architecture designed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in caring for its population suffering from tuberculosis. The Butler VAHHD has a period of significance from 1938 until 1958, encompassing the period of the first construction of the hospital complex to the close of the Third Generation era.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Butler VAHHD meets the Criteria A and C registration requirements for the property subtype “Third Party Hospital” subtype under the property type Transitional Hospitals, as described in the Multiple Property Documentation Form *United States Third Generation of Veterans Hospitals* (2018). Under Criterion A, Butler VA Healthcare is associated with the VA’s interim use of surplus military hospitals to provide for the immediate healthcare needs of World War II veterans as their postwar hospital construction program got underway. In terms of Criterion C, Butler VA Healthcare is associated with the locally significant western Pennsylvania architect, Edward B. Lee. The period of significance for Butler VA Healthcare begins with the construction of the first extant buildings on the property in 1938 and ends in 1958 for the close of the Third Generation.

Brief History of Veterans Hospitals

Federal government-sponsored health care for Veterans became established in the period following the Civil War (1861-1865) through the construction of the National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. Starting in 1866, these facilities provided limited medical care and residential facilities for Union Veterans. Based on a military model and featuring parade grounds, barracks, hospitals, and cemeteries, these facilities, many of which are still part of VA’s hospital network, are referred to as the “First Generation” of Veterans hospitals.

Following World War I (1917 – 1918), Veteran care shifted focus from long-term housing towards healthcare through the construction of hospitals that emphasized rehabilitative care and a return to civilian life. This “Second Generation” of Veterans Hospitals were characterize by sprawling campuses on rural sites, low-rise buildings built in an revival architectural styles (such as Colonial Revival or Classical Revival), and facilities constructed based on the predominate type of patient to be cared for, such as neuropsychiatric or tubercular. These “Second Generation” facilities were constructed nationwide, including the hospital in Coatesville, Pennsylvania.⁸

Following World War II (1941-1945), VA initiated construction of a nationwide construction campaign of new hospitals modeled on the latest in modern healthcare to meet the needs of the growing Veteran population. As VA needed facilities quickly and the new hospitals took time to design and build, VA often turned to existing facilities, such as the facility at Butler, to provide healthcare in the interim. As part of the Third Generation of VA hospitals, Butler provided healthcare to Veterans in Western Pennsylvania while the new hospitals in Pittsburgh were under construction. VA constructed six hospitals in Pennsylvania as

⁸ For more information on the Second Generation of VA hospitals, see *United States Second Generation Veterans Hospitals National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form* (2011); the Coatesville VA Hospital in Pennsylvania was listed in the National Register in 2013 (NR# 13000059).

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part of this nationwide construction campaign (hospitals in Altoona, Erie, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh (University Drive), Pittsburgh (Highland Drive), and Wilkes-Barre). These other Pennsylvania hospitals represented the more typical Third Generation facilities, as they are located in urban centers, often near medical schools, and feature central skyscraper-type main hospital buildings with support facilities clustered together. These hospitals favored modern architectural styles and eschewed the revival-style architecture favored by the Second Generation VA hospitals. Often, VA would rid itself of the facilities that were quickly pressed into service in these initial days of the Third Generation program, but it retained the Butler facility even after the new hospitals opened in Pittsburgh.

Tuberculosis

The history of the Butler facility starts as state hospital for the care of people suffering from tuberculosis, also called consumption, scrofula, phthisis, the white death, and the King's Evil, due to the belief the touch of a monarch could cure it. Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by an aerobic bacterium, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, which requires oxygen, thus its presence in the lungs. TB is limited solely to humans, and is a communicable disease, transferred via tiny droplets when an infected person coughs, speaks, or sneezes. The presence of the TB bacteria in the lungs does not always lead to full flowering of the disease; if the infected individual does not exhibit the disease, the condition is called a latent TB infection. In order for TB to develop, the bacteria must be present in someone with a weakened immune system that cannot fight the disease. Symptoms of TB include fever, night sweats, and weight loss. As the disease progresses, chest pains, coughs, and bloody sputum follow.⁹ In 1900, tuberculosis caused an average of 194 deaths annually per 100,000 people in the United States, with those between the ages of 25 to 34 dying at a rate of 294 deaths per 100,000.¹⁰

Until the rise of successful chemotherapy treatments in the mid-twentieth century, early treatments of the disease varied, particularly before the discovery of the bacteria in 1882 by Dr. Robert Koch. Roman doctors recommended baths of human urine, elephant blood cocktails, and consumption of wolf livers.¹¹ By the early 18th century, physician Benjamin Marten theorized TB could be transferred between people through close contact, as "very frequently conversing so nearly as to draw in part of the breath he emits from the lungs."¹² In 1854, Hermann Brehmer, a German botany student, established the first dedicated tuberculosis sanatorium in Göbersdorf, Poland, based on the curative properties of fresh air.¹³

By the early twentieth century, numerous medical tracts espoused the "open air" treatment for TB as the "only treatment which has stood the test of time and the only universally employed at the present day."¹⁴

⁹ "Tuberculosis," National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, 2020. Available online at <https://www.niaid.nih.gov/diseases-conditions/tuberculosis> (accessed 13 May 2021).

¹⁰ "Death Rates From Selected Causes, 1900-1932," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/mortality/hist290.htm> (accessed 24 August 2011).

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Benjamin Marten, *A New Theory of Consumptions: More especially of a Phthisis, or Consumption of the Lungs*. (London: R. Knaplock, 1720): 79. Digital version available online at <https://play.google.com/books/reader?id=QQG1kPqyoTkC&pg=GBS.PR12&hl=en> (Accessed 13 May 2021).

¹³ John Frith, "History of Tuberculosis. Part 2 – The Sanatoria and the Discoveries of the Tubercle Bacillus." *Journal of Military and Veterans' Health*, Volume 22, No. 2, June 2014. Available online at <https://jmvh.org/article/history-of-tuberculosis-part-2-the-sanatoria-and-the-discoveries-of-the-tubercle-bacillus/> (accessed 13 May 2021).

¹⁴ Edward Otis, *Tuberculosis: Its Cause, Cure and Prevention*. (New York: Thomas Y. Cromwell Company, 1909; reprint, 1918): 104.

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The treatment could be accomplished a number of ways, as long as the patient spent considerable time with access to fresh air. Patients spent the days outside, resting in chairs with minimum exercise. At night, patients slept outside, in sleeping porches, or in large wards with open windows. Some sanatoria featured special beds that allowed patients' heads to be outside with the rest of the body inside the building. Along with fresh air, this treatment emphasized constant medical supervision, good food, and "tranquility and hopefulness of mind."¹⁵ Some medicine was used to alleviate some symptoms temporarily, but for the most part no drugs were administered. The sanatoria served to provide this care to the TB patients, as well as to keep them isolated from the general population, and to prevent further spread of the disease. Often the sanatoria were located in relatively rural areas, in order to best accomplish both goals of treatment and isolation.

As the open air treatment continued to evolve, public health groups also began to focus on preventing further spread of the disease. Prevention societies started with the founding of the Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Tuberculosis in 1892, the first society to focus solely on the treatment and cure for tuberculosis, and continued with organizations such as the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis in 1904, rechristened the National Tuberculosis Association in 1918.¹⁶ A key component of preventing the spread of the disease was education, via such vehicles as traveling exhibitions, public health posters, and extensive press coverage of causes of the disease. Compulsory notification from doctors to various boards of health was also a means of tracking TB cases, particularly of those cases so advanced isolation was necessary.¹⁷

Western Pennsylvania Tuberculosis Sanatorium

State governments often stepped in to provide care for TB patients, especially given the fear of a pandemic outbreak of the disease in crowded cities. States participated in TB care and prevention through the establishment of state-run sanatoria, notification laws, and education of citizens, with Pennsylvania an early leader in these efforts. Starting with the creation of the first advocacy and education group dedicated to TB, the aforementioned Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, Pennsylvania advocated for the construction of numerous TB sanatoria. Private hospitals had existed in the late nineteenth century in Pennsylvania, but tax-supported hospitals in the state started with the construction of South Mountain Camp Sanatorium in Mont Alto in 1902. Because the property was part of a state park, this early sanatoria fell under the jurisdiction of the Department of Forestry; it remained so until transferred to the Pennsylvania Department of Health in 1907. Pennsylvania continued to open additional tuberculosis sanatoria, including the Cresson State Sanatorium in 1912 and Hamburg State Sanatorium in 1914.¹⁸ The Pennsylvania

¹⁵ Ibid., 107.

¹⁶ "The Christmas Seal People," Historical Collections at the Claude Moore Health Sciences Library, online exhibit on *Introduction to the American Lung Association and the Fight Against Tuberculosis*. Available online at <http://exhibits.hsl.virginia.edu/alav/> (accessed 13 May 2021). "State and Regional Anti-Tuberculosis Societies Lead to the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis, Precursor to the American Lung Association," University of Virginia, Historical Collections at the Claude Moore Health Sciences Library, online exhibit on *Introduction to the American Lung Association and the Fight Against Tuberculosis*. Available online at <http://exhibits.hsl.virginia.edu/alav/birth/> (accessed 13 May 2021).

¹⁷ Otis, *Tuberculosis*, 165-174.

¹⁸ Russell Anderson, "Pennsylvania – A Pioneer," *Chest*, Volume 8, No. 11 (November 1942): 347-348; "Sanatoriums in Pa. treated thousands for tuberculosis," *The Morning Call* (Allentown, PA), 12 July 2010. Available online at <https://www.mcall.com/opinion/mc-xpm-2010-07-12-mc-tb-cresson-chuck-felton-yv-0712-20100712-story.html> (accessed 13 May 2021).

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legislature appropriated one million dollars in the early twentieth century to fund these institutions, and to research the causes of TB.¹⁹

Despite these construction efforts, the western portion of the state did not have a dedicated TB facility. By 1937, the state announced it intended to build a sanatorium in Western Pennsylvania, which led to competition among different communities. The city of Butler agreed to purchase the selected site, farmland of 100 acres northwest of the city, for \$30,000 and ultimately won the facility. The original sanatorium complex plans consisted of one main building, with a wing to accommodate children, quarters for nurses and employees, laundry, garage, and various other support buildings to be constructed at the cost of \$2.6 million. The hospital was designed by Pittsburgh architect Edward B. Lee.²⁰

During the course of research, no extant historic building plans were located regarding the original floor plan for the main hospital.²¹ The Butler hospital, planned as the Western Pennsylvania Tuberculosis Sanatorium, does not feature multiple small cottages with deep porches that are the hallmark of many TB sanatoria. In the late 1930s, TB sanatoria architecture reflected general hospital architecture trends, particularly as hospitals began to embrace many of the characteristics of the TB sanatorium, such as an emphasis on light and air achieved with windows and balconies.²² At a contemporaneous TB sanatorium in Minnesota, the administration building housed both administrative services and patient care, with the majority of the space devoted to the latter. The first floor contained large wards, with the sexes housed on separate wings. Adjacent to the wards were dressing rooms and bathroom. Doctors' offices were located in the central portion of the building, between the two wings, with neighboring spaces for nurses, the pharmacy, x-ray equipment, and the nose & throat room. The upper floors were given over to housing patients. Separate facilities for dining and entertainment were provided at the rear of the main building, including a communal patient dining room with its own bakery and cannery. Given that many of these organizational principles appear in other hospitals of the period, such as locating examination and treatment rooms in the central portion of the building, while housing patients in the wings, the Western Pennsylvania Tuberculosis Sanatorium likely was designed on a similar configuration.²³ Based on hospital literature of the period, the Sanatorium may have also had dedicated spaces for sanitary disposal of contaminated sputum and a pneumothorax suite for treatment.²⁴

By 1939, the construction of the main building was mostly complete, but the hospital was not activated due to state budget deficits. Governor Arthur James further argued the hospital was not needed, as existing facilities were sufficient. Public health groups decried this decision, citing existing waiting lists at other state TB sanatoria. Funds continued to be appropriated for construction, but not for activation. The hospital was completed by 1940, but not a single TB patient was admitted to the facility before the property was leased to the Army.²⁵

¹⁹ Otis, *Tuberculosis*, 257.

²⁰ "Construction Starts Soon on Butler Sanatorium Site," *Butler Eagle*, 29 July 1937.

²¹ Copies of the original elevation drawings exist, Butler VA Healthcare, Butler, PA.

²² Isadore Rosenfield, *Hospitals: Integrated Design* (New York: Reinhold Publishing Corporation, 1947): 194.

²³ HABS No. MN-133-6, MN-133-8, MN-133-9, MN-133-10, MN-133-C-5, MN-133-C-6, MN-133-C-7, Glen Lake Sanatorium, Minnetonka, Minnesota; Historic American Building Survey, <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/hh/item/mn0383/> (accessed 19 May 2021).

²⁴ Rosenfield, *Hospitals*, 195.

²⁵ *50th Anniversary, 1946-1996, VA Medical Center, Butler, Pennsylvania*, Archives of Public Affairs Office, VA Butler Healthcare Campus, Butler, PA, 1.

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Edward B. Lee

Edward B. Lee was a prominent Pittsburgh-based architect educated at Harvard University before completing studies at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. Responsible for over 300 buildings scattered throughout the United States, his notable works in nearby Pittsburgh included the City-County Building, Peabody High School, Chamber of Commerce Building, the Harvard-Yale-Princeton Club, and the Connelley Trade School. He was also the supervising architect for several public housing projects in Pittsburgh, including Terrace Village and Bedford Dwellings. In Butler, he also designed the Butler Eagle Building, the home of the local newspaper. The Western Pennsylvania Hospital for Tuberculosis is one of the few specific works listed in his obituary from 1956.²⁶

Lee often used revival architectural styles in his work. The Edgewood Club, constructed in 1916, has Mission Revival elements including red tiles and white stucco walls. At Thiel College in Greenville, Pennsylvania, Lee used Collegiate Gothic elements for the Roth Administration Building in 1913 and the Rissell Gymnasium in 1922. The Connelley Trade School, constructed in 1930, was noted for its “mixture of traditional and more modern influences” and “traditional detailing” in its combination of both Classical and Art Deco features.²⁷ Many of his buildings, including the Connelley Trade School, have been recognized as local landmarks and listed in the National Register.

The buildings Lee designed for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania reflect not only his facility with incorporating a variety of revival architectural styles into his designs, but also his familiarity with designing large, complex institutional buildings, such as a tuberculosis sanitarium.

Deshon General Hospital

By December 1942, despite never being activated, the Western Pennsylvania Tuberculosis Sanatorium was leased to the U.S. Army and renamed the Deshon General Hospital. The hospital was named after Lieutenant Colonel George Dufree Deshon, a surgeon and commander of military hospitals in Hot Springs, Arkansas and the Ancon Hospital in the Panama Canal Zone. At his death in 1917, Deshon was the only officer in the U.S. Army Medical Corps who also graduated from West Point, the United States Military Academy.²⁸

The Army and Navy faced the same problem VA would confront at the end of the war: insufficient facilities to provide healthcare for their servicemen. At the start of World War II, the U.S. Army needed to expand its number of available hospital beds stateside. However, the Army’s hospital needs were limited by the

²⁶ “Death Takes Edward B. Lee, Ex-Architect.” *The Pittsburgh Press*, 8 March 1956. Available online via newspapers.com (accessed 17 March 2021); Entry for “Lee, Edward Brown.” In *American Architects Directory, First Edition*. (R. R. Bowker Company for the American Institute of Architects: New York, 1955), p. 324. Available online at <https://aiahistoricaldirectory.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/AHDAA/pages/20644319/1956+American+Architects+Directory> (accessed 17 March 2021); Lu Donnelly et al., “Butler Eagle Building”, [Butler, Pennsylvania], SAH Archipedia, eds. Gabrielle Esperdy and Karen Kingsley, Charlottesville: UVaP, 2012—, <http://sah-archipedia.org/buildings/PA-01-BU4> (accessed 17 March 2021).

²⁷ Lu Donnelly et al., “Thiel College”, [Greenville, Pennsylvania], SAH Archipedia, eds. Gabrielle Esperdy and Karen Kingsley, Charlottesville: UVaP, 2012—. Available online at <http://sah-archipedia.org/buildings/PA-01-ME20> (accessed 17 March 2021); Pennsylvania Historic Resource Survey Form for the Connelley Trade School. Completed 1986. Available online at <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/71992202> (accessed 17 March 2021).

²⁸ “Lieut. Col. George Dufree Deshon – Obituary,” *Journal of the American Medical Association*, Volume LXIX, No. 2 (14 July 1917): 137.

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need to expedite construction and not waste building materials that were dedicated to the war effort. The Army utilized basic plans intended for hospitals constructed closer to the war front and modified them to meet stateside requirements. Initially, these hospital ward buildings were built of semipermanent construction, with two story buildings constructed of brick and hollow tile; these facilities were preferred over cantonment-type wood-frame construction when there was no threat to loss of time or increased cost of buildings materials. By April 1942, increased costs required the Army to switch to entirely cantonment-type construction of wooden frame.²⁹ To further expedite matters, the Army also turned to existing civilian facilities. By May 1942, a "Directive for Wartime Construction" established the policy of converting civilian hospitals to Army use and building new facilities where existing facilities were not feasible. By the end of 1943, twenty-three hospitals nationwide were in use by the Army. The facilities ranged from existing hospitals, such as the Western Pennsylvania Tuberculosis Sanatorium, to hotels, college buildings, and even a portion of the W.K. Kellogg estate, home of the cereal magnate.³⁰

To make Deshon more useful to its needs, the Army constructed a number of facilities, including patient wards and recreation buildings, directly to the south of the existing main hospital building. Following tenets established by its cantonment type hospital program, the buildings were plain buildings neatly organized in rows of low-rise simple brick buildings connected by covered walkways.³¹ The capacity at Deshon swelled from 500 to 1000 beds.

While initially intended primarily as a general medical hospital, the Deshon General Hospital became the site of one of three Army Hearing Rehabilitation Centers. The impact of wartime equipment, such as tanks, and new explosives on soldiers' hearing became of concern to the Army and sought to develop specialized treatment programs regarding hearing and hearing loss. Initially, the Army had selected Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, DC, as a site for a treatment program, but the facility became too busy to adequately handle the program and the Army moved it to Deshon. By February 1943, the three treatment centers (at Deshon in Pennsylvania, as well as Hoff General Hospital in Santa Barbara, California, and Borden General Hospital in Chickasha, Oklahoma) began receiving patients.³²

²⁹ Ibid., p. 68.

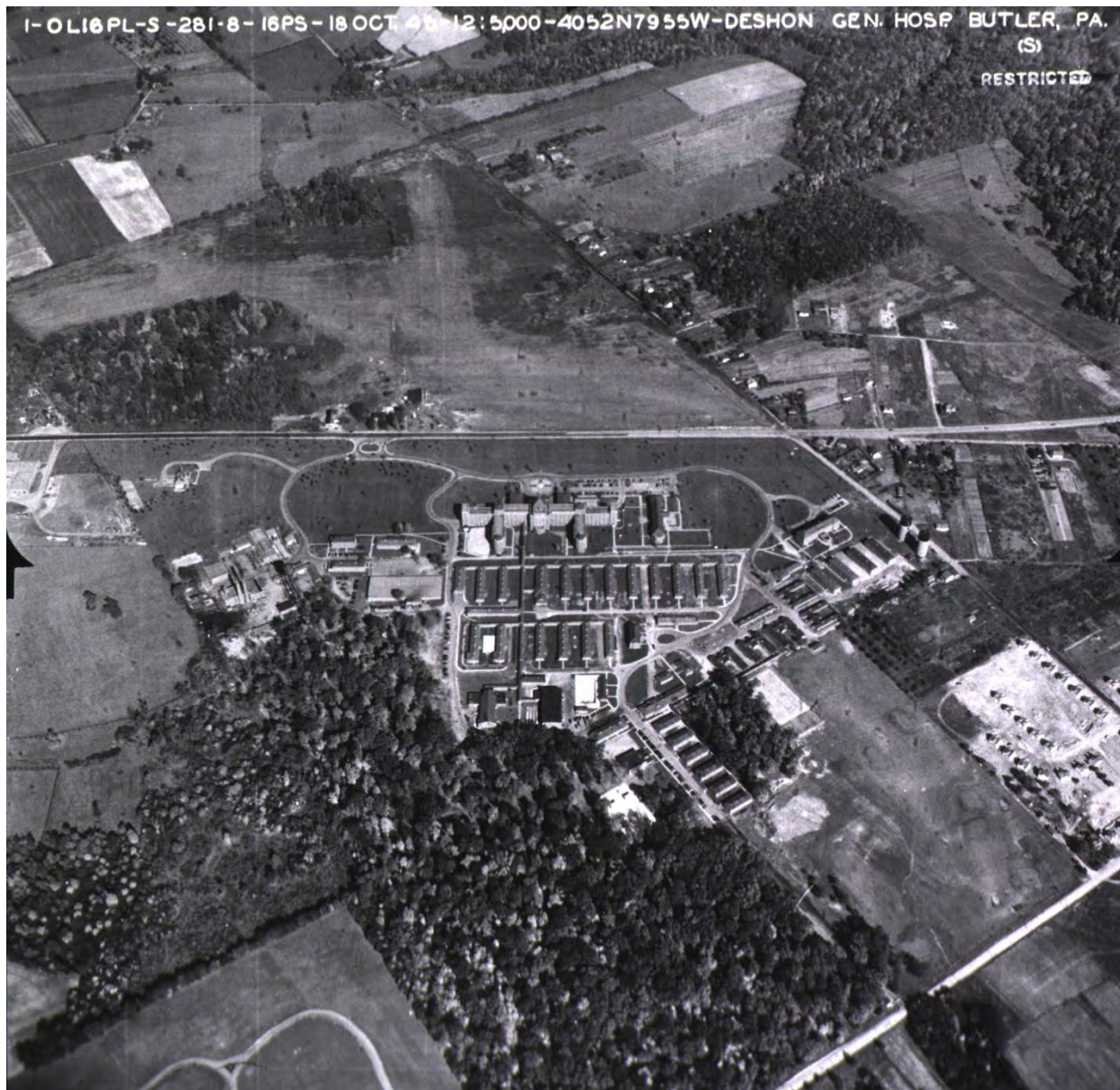
³⁰ Clarence McKittrick Smith, *The Medical Department: Hospitalization and Evacuation, Zone of Interior* (Washington, DC: Center of Military History, United States Army, 1956), 73.

³¹ Building Number and Location Plan, Butler, PA, Drawn prior to 1955. Archives of Public Affairs Office, VA Butler Healthcare Campus, Butler, PA.

³² Moe Bergman, *On the Origins of Audiology: American Wartime Military Audiology*. American Academy of Audiology, 2002, p. 4. Available online at <https://www.audiology.org/sites/default/files/audiologytoday/2002ATJanSpecial.pdf> (accessed 12 May 2021).

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*Deshon Hospital in October 1945.
Collections of History of Medicine, National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, Maryland.*

At Deshon, the program concentrated on extensive analysis to guide selection of hearing aids and using speech as a means of determining the extent of hearing loss. Hospital laboratories manufactured hearing aid components to combine with readily available hearing aids to allow patients to determine the best configuration for their personal hearing loss. The program utilized "listening hour," unique to the Deshon program, where patients listened to a range of sounds, including music and speech, both before and after being fitted with hearing aids as part of the clinical trials.³³ Studies also focused on the relationship between hearing loss and psychiatric conditions, leading to recommendations to include psychiatrists as part of the

³³ Ibid., p. 21.

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Hearing Service.³⁴ The two doctors attached to the facility and in charge of the program, Raymond Carhart and Norton Canfield, are credited with developing the term “audiology” to describe the study of hearing and hearing loss.³⁵ By the close of the program in April 1946, 3,663 patients had participated and received 2,792 hearing aids.³⁶

The services provided by Deshon ranged from occupational therapies, such as carpentry and model airplanes, to day-to-day services and recreation. The facility had laundry services, as well as a bank, barber shop, and post office. The hospital contained a library as well as the book-cart that brought reading materials to soldiers confined to their beds. The recreation hall offered a variety of entertainments, including movies, games, piano lessons, “and just plain lounging.”³⁷ However, as this was still a military facility with active soldiers, there were rules as to appropriate mode of dress, even during sunbathing, obtaining passes and furloughs, and visiting hours. The VA maintained an office at Deshon to assist soldiers with pensions and benefits.³⁸ However, following the end of World War II, the Army told Pennsylvania it would no longer need the hospital, with plans to vacate by mid-1946.³⁹

Veterans Administration Hospital

VA quickly expressed an interest in obtaining the facility. In February 1946, VA Administrator Omar Bradley contacted the governor of Pennsylvania and requested terms of purchase. Pennsylvania put a price tag of \$4 million on the property.⁴⁰ To comply with its own legal requirements, VA put forth the request to the Federal Board of Hospitalization, the government body responsible for oversight of government health care facilities. In May 1946, the Federal Board of Hospitalization passed a resolution recommending the transfer of Deshon to VA for use as a neuropsychiatric hospital consisting of 500 beds, well below the approximately 1,000 beds already available at the facility. Converting the existing hospital was projected to cost VA approximately \$7,000 per bed. The buildings constructed by the Army could be used to treat patients while the new hospitals that more closely adhered to the programmatic needs of the Third Generation program, such as proximity to medical schools and an urban location, were designed and constructed in Pittsburgh.⁴¹

Four days before the Army’s lease expired, condemnation proceedings were initiated by the United States for the hospital property. The court awarded Pennsylvania a little over \$2.5 million dollars, based on the conditions set forth in the lease signed in 1941. Pennsylvania balked at the lower price, established a

³⁴ Peter Hobart Knapp, M.D. “Emotional Aspects of Hearing Loss,” *Psychosomatic Medicine*, Volume X, No. 4 (July – August 1948): 221.

³⁵ Holly Hosford-Dunn, et al. *Audiology Practice Management*, (New York: Thieme New York, 2000), 18.

³⁶ Bergman, p. 22.

³⁷ Guide to Deshon General Hospital, ca. 1944, Archives of Public Affairs Office, VA Butler Healthcare Campus, Butler, PA.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ 50th Anniversary, 2.

⁴⁰ *United States v. Certain Lands in Butler County, PA*, et al., 181 F.2d 887 (Third Circuit 1950).

⁴¹ Resolution Adopted by the Federal Board of Hospitalization, 24 September 1946, Geographic Files 1919-1959, Department of Medicine and Surgery, Veterans Administration, Record Group 15, A1, Entry 64, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC.; the new Veterans hospitals in Pittsburgh were not completed until 1953 (Highland Drive) and 1954 (University Drive). VA constructed six hospitals in Pennsylvania as part of the Third Generation program, in Altoona, Erie, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh (Highland Drive), Pittsburgh (University Drive), and Wilkes-Barre. An additional hospital was planned for Harrisburg, but was cancelled in 1950 due to a funding shortage.

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legislative committee to find any legal loopholes, and appealed the verdict, but the original judgment of the lower court was confirmed.⁴² Finally, in 1952, Governor John Fine signed off on a bill rendering the transaction legal.⁴³

During the time the hospital hung in legal limbo, VA made certain improvements to the property. VA occupied the property as of July 1, 1946, with initial plans to use the facility as a 500-bed neuropsychiatric hospital, with an additional 500 beds designated for general medical and surgical patients.⁴⁴ In 1948, Butler operated with 521 beds utilized for TB patients, 443 for general medical and surgical, and 36 unavailable. This trend of a preponderance of beds proved portentous; the hospital formally was converted to a TB hospital in 1952, when VA finally officially owned the facility.⁴⁵



*Building #1, unknown date.
Collections of Federal Preservation Office, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, D.C.*

VA and Tuberculosis

By the time VA acquired Butler, it had an established history of caring for veterans suffering from TB. In the days of the Veterans Bureau, the predecessor agency to the Veterans Administration and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, several hospitals were designated specifically for the care of TB patients;

⁴² "State Senate Probes Deshon Sale to U.S.," *The Indiana Gazette* (Indiana, Pennsylvania): 2 March 1949, p. 15. Accessed via newspapers.com (accessed on 14 May 2021); *United States v. Certain Lands in Butler County, PA*, et al., 181 F.2d 887 (Third Circuit 1950).

⁴³ *50th Anniversary*, 3.

⁴⁴ *Annual Report of the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 1946* (Washington DC: Government Printing Office, 1946): 177.

⁴⁵ *Annual Report of the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 1952* (Washington DC: Government Printing Office, 1953): 12.

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for example, approximately 11,000 veterans sought care for TB in 1922.⁴⁶ During World War II, VA grew concerned that the military operations of the war would not only lead to an increased occurrence of TB in the veteran population, but also would spark an increase in the civilian population, as cases were already on the rise in New York City, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Detroit. VA recommended the Armed Forces perform chest x-rays on incoming soldiers and sailors in order to identify those individuals suffering from advance tuberculosis, thus, hopefully, reducing the spread of the diseases to others.⁴⁷

Following World War II, VA implemented a series of changes to rebut concerns that its doctors were isolated from the greater medical field. One of these modifications resulted in VA developing a research program, with tuberculosis receiving considerable attention. In 1946, VA initiated a program testing the efficacy of streptomycin in the treatment of TB. The investigation included hospitals under VA's purview, along with a few Army and Navy hospitals. VA physicians expressed cautious optimism about the success of chemotherapy treatments for TB, slowly expanding the program to include more patients, and to investigate effects of other drugs.⁴⁸ At Butler, VA conducted tests of new drugs for strains of TB that were resistant to streptomycin and as well as the efficacy of drugs paired with streptomycin.⁴⁹ In 1953, VA reported a 50 percent decrease in the TB mortality rate, a "striking improvement...since the rather hopeless pre-streptomycin era when the death rate approached 100 percent."⁵⁰ A year later, the introduction of the drug isoniazid to the testing program proved even more successful as it "very nearly resulted in a reversal of the pre-streptomycin figures of 100 percent fatality."⁵¹

However, despite advances made in treating TB in the postwar period, VA still faced the challenge of caring for thousands of the TB stricken patients. As with other specialties, particularly mental health, VA struggled to staff TB hospitals, leaving a number of hospital beds classified as unavailable due to lack of staffing. VA classified hospitals based on the preponderance of bed types found within the facility; in 1947, VA operated 123 hospitals across the nation; 19 of those were classified as TB hospitals (about 15 percent). That year, Butler had 521 beds for TB patients, the largest number of VA TB beds in Pennsylvania; only four other VA hospital had more dedicated TB beds.⁵² The average stay for a TB patient at a VA hospital was 186.5 days.⁵³

⁴⁶ Trent Spurlock, Craig A. Potts and Karen Hudson, *United States Second Generation Veterans Hospitals National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation* (2010), Section E, page 14.

⁴⁷ Roy A. Wolford, "The Tuberculosis Problem in the Veterans Administration," *Chest*, Volume 9 (May-June 1943): 279.

⁴⁸ *Annual Report of the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 1949* (Washington DC: Government Printing Office, 1950): 27.

⁴⁹ "450 Vets Battle TB at Deshon Hospital," *The Pittsburgh Press* (Pittsburgh, PA): 29 January 1950, p. 8. Accessed via newspapers.com (accessed 14 May 2021).

⁵⁰ *Annual Report of the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 1953* (Washington DC: Government Printing Office, 1954): 33-34.

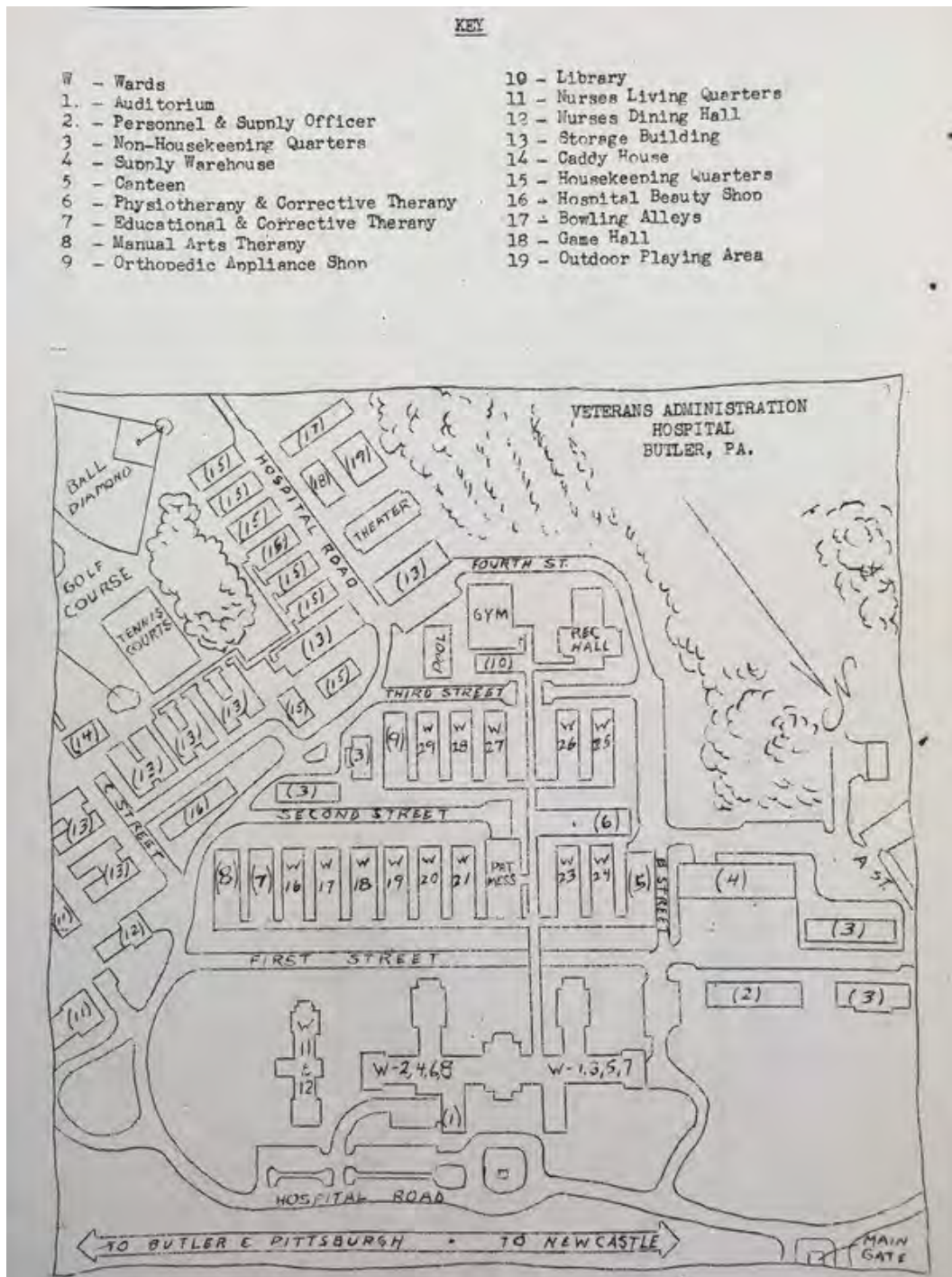
⁵¹ *Annual Report of the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 1954* (Washington DC: Government Printing Office, 1955): 44-45.

⁵² The four with more TB beds were the VA facilities in Rutland Heights, MA; Castle Point, NY; Sunmount, NY; and Oteen, NC. *Annual Report of the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 1947* (Washington DC: Government Printing Office, 1948): 10, 111-16.

⁵³ *Annual Report of the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 1946* (Washington DC: Government Printing Office, 1946): 6.

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Butler VA hospital map, 1949.

Collections of Weir Genealogy Room, Butler Area Public Library, Butler, Pennsylvania. Available online at:
<https://butlerhistorical.org/items/show/49#&gid=1&pid=2>

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These prolonged hospital stays, often far from their families, sometimes led to patients leaving against medical advice and spreading TB into the civilian community. VA hospitals were particularly susceptible to this problem, since patients left at a rate slightly higher than the equivalent at sanatoriums, from which anywhere from one-half to one-third of TB patients left against medical advice. Patients leaving before the completion of treatment were likely to return in a deteriorated state and much more likely to die from the disease.⁵⁴ To combat these problems, VA initiated a number of programs to assist with the mental and emotional wellbeing of their TB patients. Vocational therapy programs, designed for the patient “to develop a wholesome pattern of living,” were tailored to the needs to TB patients.⁵⁵ VA studied the psychosomatic side of TB through a special study involving not only pathologists, but also psychiatrists and a social worker to develop recommendations for “the prevention of emotional difficulties.”⁵⁶ VA also implemented a patient education program, in an attempt to increase cooperation and prevent early termination of treatment.⁵⁷ At Butler, these programs focused on methods that would allow patients to reintegrate with society and “make them a financial help rather than a physical hindrance to their loved ones.”⁵⁸ Patients were offered correspondence courses for both high school and college, training in office and mechanical equipment to facilitate finding a job, and the guidance of social workers to address job prospects and financial concerns.⁵⁹

VA faced not only the challenge of caring for tubercular patients, but also preventing further spread of the disease among its staff. In the post-war period, VA instituted a number of measures designed to protect the medical staff from infection. At the time of admission, all patients received a chest X-ray to determine the presence of TB, which not only allowed the patient to receive the correct treatment, but also identified those patients already infected, so precautions could be taken to prevent further spread of the disease. Chest x-rays were repeated at standard intervals and for all outpatients.⁶⁰ A program of continuous training also was implemented, which facilitated the medical staff from various VA and civilian hospitals to trade information on various types of therapies and treatments.⁶¹ VA also researched the efficacy of germicidal lamps, “air-hygiene,” and oiling floors and bed linens.⁶² By the end of the 1952 fiscal year, VA estimated it had spent upwards of a total of \$1 billion on tuberculosis-related care and research over the preceding five years.⁶³

As VA’s healthcare transitioned away from TB treatment at Butler, the hospital expanded general medical and surgical services including introduction of a dental program and a nursing home unit in the late 1960s. In 1969, surgical services were ended and rehabilitation programs increased. An overall shift to outpatient care further reduced the patient population at Butler.⁶⁴ In a reflection of the changing needs of the campus, the Army buildings constructed behind Building #1 began to be demolished. Six were demolished by 1969;

⁵⁴ “Hospitalization of Veterans,” *Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine*, Volume 25, Number 9 (September 1949): 591; *Annual Report, 1953*, 35.

⁵⁵ *Annual Report of the Administrator of Veterans’ Affairs for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 1949* (Washington DC: Government Printing Office, 1950): 28.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, 29.

⁵⁷ *Annual Report of the Administrator of Veterans’ Affairs for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 1952* (Washington DC: Government Printing Office, 1953): 35.

⁵⁸ “450 Vets Battle TB at Deshon Hospital.”

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*

⁶⁰ *Annual Report, 1949*, 28.

⁶¹ *Annual Report, 1950*, 28.

⁶² *Annual Report, 1949*, 28; *Annual Report, 1955*, 41.

⁶³ *Annual Report, 1953*, 35-36.

⁶⁴ Alysha Federkeil and Dylan Vamosi, “Butler VA Hospital,” *Butler County Historical*. Available online at <https://butlerhistorical.org/items/show/49> (accessed 19 May 2021).

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by 2009, only five remained and the last one was demolished around 2014.⁶⁵ In 2017, VA leased a new health care center approximately two miles from the Butler campus; the new building now served as the main building for Veteran health care needs.⁶⁶ Recent construction at the Butler campus, such as the community living center and the domiciliary complex, reflect the shift away from general medical services towards long-term care.

By the early 1960s, VA had reduced the hospital campus footprint to exclude a parcel at the southwestern portion of campus along PA Route 68; by 1960, the U.S. Army Reserve Center had been constructed. VA routinely excised extraneous acreage from its facilities as the hospital needs change; it was likely the Reserve Center arose out of such a campus reduction. The Center property is fenced, visually separate from the hospital campus, and has a distinct function not related to Veterans healthcare, and is not considered part of the Butler VAHHD.

Summary

The Butler VAHHD is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places at the state level under Criterion A under Healthcare / Medicine for its important role - in providing treatment to Pennsylvania Veterans following World War II and under Criterion C for its architectural design. The VA hospital at Butler, Pennsylvania represents a critical point in VA's history, when the rising tide of Veterans seeking healthcare found VA with inadequate facilities to provide the necessary care. Due to the pressing need, VA utilized a network of existing facilities as a temporary stop gap measure. As many of these facilities were constructed for temporary use, VA frequently opted to demolish and build new hospitals on the same site upon implementation of the Third Generation construction campaign. At Butler, VA acquired a newly built hospital of permanent construction that was only six years old, and which had been designed specifically for the care of tuberculosis patients, the very use VA needed at the time. VA elected to retain the existing buildings, both from the tuberculosis sanatorium and Army general hospital eras, modifying as needed to meet specific VA needs. VA took over several former Army facilities in this period, including hospitals in Temple, Texas; Louisville, Kentucky; and Phoenix, Arizona; the appeal of these facilities to VA was the fact they could quickly be ready for Veterans, not that they were Army facilities. Thus, VA's use of a state-constructed and Army-expanded hospital renders the Butler VAHHD an important example of the for the property subtype "Third Party Hospital" subtype under the property type Transitional Hospitals of the Third Generation of VA hospitals.

⁶⁵ Historic aerials for the Butler campus for years 1962, 1969, 1972, 1983, 1986, 1993, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2013, and 2015. Available online at <https://www.historicaerials.com/viewer> (accessed 19 May 2021).

⁶⁶ "New VA medical center near Butler expect to drive surge in patients," *Trib Total Media*, 4 September 2017. Available online at <https://archive.triblive.com/local/valley-news-dispatch/new-va-medical-center-near-butler-expected-to-drive-surge-in-patients/> (accessed 19 May 2021).

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Name of repository: Collections of Federal Preservation Office, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, D.C.

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 88 acres

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Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 40.876801 | Longitude: -79.948534 |
| 2. Latitude: 40.873180 | Longitude: -79.940507 |
| 3. Latitude: 40.870928 | Longitude: -79.940208 |
| 4. Latitude: 40.870758 | Longitude: -79.944268 |
| 5. Latitude: 40.867843 | Longitude: -79.944105 |
| 6. Latitude: 40.867765 | Longitude: -79.945225 |
| 7. Latitude: 40.870398 | Longitude: -79.945324 |
| 8. Latitude: 40.870589 | Longitude: -79.948184 |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

See attached site map (Figure 2)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries reflect the current boundaries of the Butler VA hospital complex and include all the historic resources associated with the Butler VAHHD.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Lindsay S. Hannah

organization: Row 10 Historic Preservation Solutions, LLC

street & number: 8215 Sycamore Place

city or town: New Orleans state: LA zip code: 70118

e-mail: lindsay@row10hps.com telephone: 504.266.2098 date: March 2022

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Butler VA Hospital Historic District
City or Vicinity: Butler Township
County: Butler State: PA
Photographer: Lindsay Hannah
Date Photographed: 10 December 2020

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 29: Northeast (primary) façade of Building #1. Camera pointed southwest.
- 2 of 29: Main entrance to Building #1 on northeast elevation. Camera pointed southwest.
- 3 of 29: Detail of Tudor Revival details on northeast elevation of Building #1 to the south of the main entrance. Camera pointed southwest.
- 4 of 29: North wing projecting from northeast elevation of Building #1. Camera pointed west.
- 5 of 29: Southwest (rear) elevation of Building #1. Camera pointed northeast.
- 6 of 29: Northwest (primary) elevation of Building #2. Camera pointed southeast.
- 7 of 29: Detail of entrance on west end of northwest elevation of Building #2. Camera pointed southeast.
- 8 of 29: Example of "Air" panel on west end of northwest elevation of Building #2. Camera pointed southeast.
- 9 of 29: North (primary) elevation of Building #3. Camera pointed south.
- 10 of 29: Southeast (primary) façade of Building #4. Camera pointed northwest.
- 11 of 29: Northeast (primary) façade of Building #5. Camera pointed southwest.
- 12 of 29: Southwest (rear) elevation of Buildings #5 (on left) and #5A (on right). Camera pointed northeast.
- 13 of 29: East corner of Building #6. Camera pointed west.
- 14 of 29: Northeast elevation of Building #7. Camera pointed southeast.
- 15 of 29: East elevation of Building #8. Camera pointed northwest.
- 16 of 29: South elevation of Building #9. Camera pointed northeast.
- 17 of 29: Southeast (rear) elevation of Building #20 with Building #1 in background. Camera pointed northwest.
- 18 of 29: North elevation of Building #24. Camera pointed south.

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- 19 of 29: Interior courtyard created by cluster of CLC buildings; Building #21 at rear and Building #1 in background. Camera pointed northeast.
20 of 29: East elevation of Building #41. Camera pointed west.
21 of 29: Southwest corner of Building #45. Camera pointed northeast.
22 of 29: Southeast corner of Building #46. Camera pointed northwest.
23 of 29: South corner of Building #47. Camera pointed north.
24 of 29: Southeast corner of Building #51. Camera pointed northwest.
25 of 29: View of Structure #100 from adjacent roadway. Camera pointed north.
26 of 29: View of campus (Buildings #23 and #24 to left and Buildings #1 and #4 to right) from Hospital Road near PA Route 68 campus entrance. Camera pointed north.
27 of 29: View of connecting corridor leading from rear of Building #1 to surface parking lot. Camera pointed southeast.
28 of 29: View of northeast portion of campus adjacent to New Castle Road. Buildings #1 and #20 visible to left of image. Camera pointed northwest.
29 of 20: View from northeast portion of campus adjacent to main entrance from New Castle Road. Camera pointed southwest.

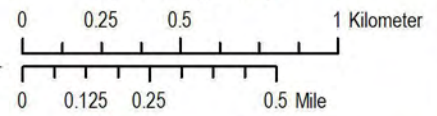
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.


Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

Figure 1: Topo Map



 Campus Boundary

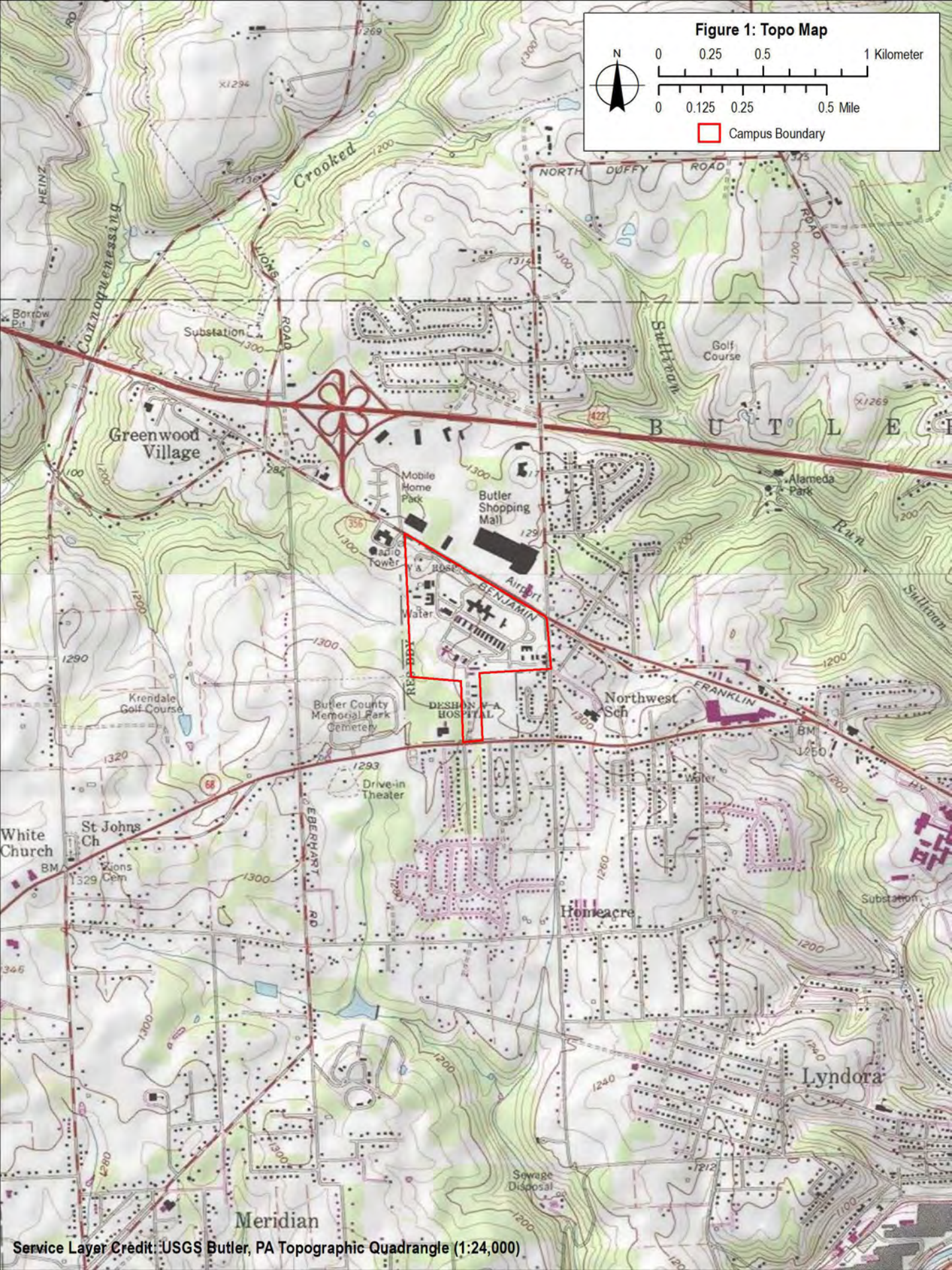
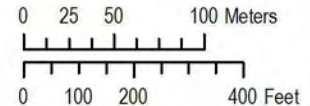
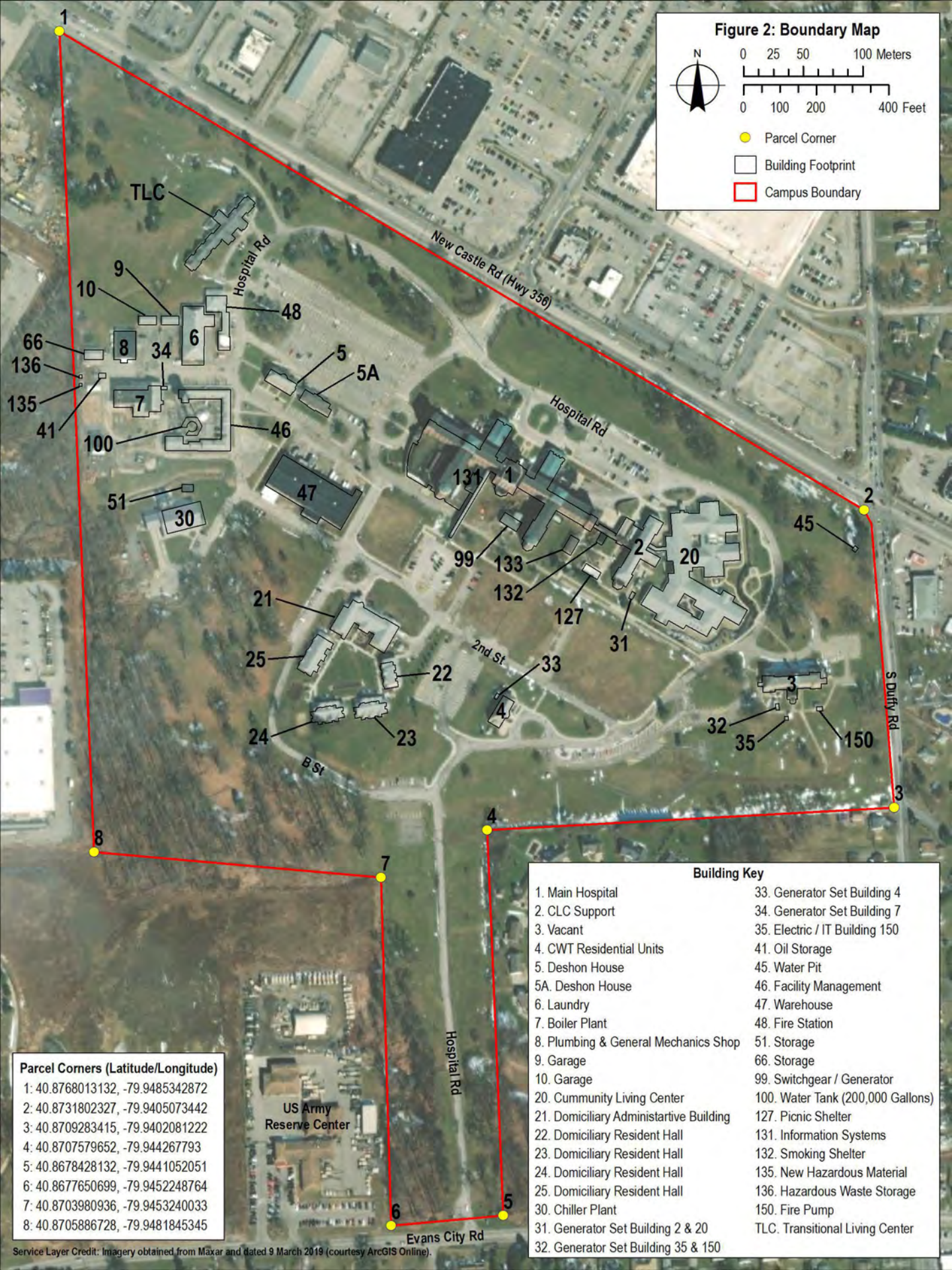


Figure 2: Boundary Map



- Parcel Corner
- Building Footprint
- Campus Boundary



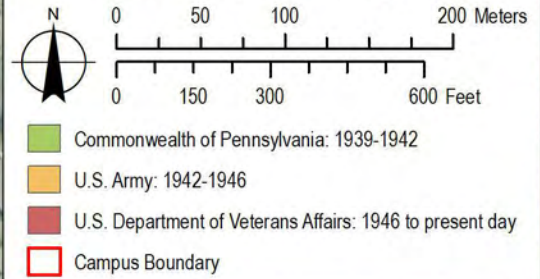
Parcel Corners (Latitude/Longitude)

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2: 40.8731802327, -79.9405073442
3: 40.8709283415, -79.9402081222
4: 40.8707579652, -79.944267793
5: 40.8678428132, -79.9441052051
6: 40.8677650699, -79.9452248764
7: 40.8703980936, -79.9453240033
8: 40.8705886728, -79.9481845345

Building Key

1. Main Hospital	33. Generator Set Building 4
2. CLC Support	34. Generator Set Building 7
3. Vacant	35. Electric / IT Building 150
4. CWT Residential Units	41. Oil Storage
5. Deshon House	45. Water Pit
5A. Deshon House	46. Facility Management
6. Laundry	47. Warehouse
7. Boiler Plant	48. Fire Station
8. Plumbing & General Mechanics Shop	51. Storage
9. Garage	66. Storage
10. Garage	99. Switchgear / Generator
20. Community Living Center	100. Water Tank (200,000 Gallons)
21. Domiciliary Administrative Building	127. Picnic Shelter
22. Domiciliary Resident Hall	131. Information Systems
23. Domiciliary Resident Hall	132. Smoking Shelter
24. Domiciliary Resident Hall	135. New Hazardous Material
25. Domiciliary Resident Hall	136. Hazardous Waste Storage
30. Chiller Plant	150. Fire Pump
31. Generator Set Building 2 & 20	TLC. Transitional Living Center
32. Generator Set Building 35 & 150	

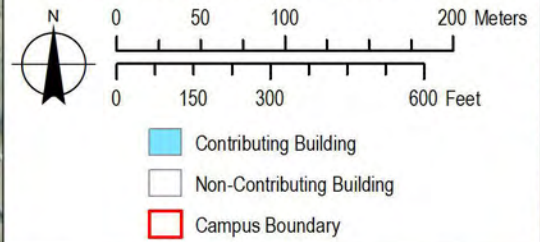
Figure 3: Campus Chronology Map



Building Key

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Main Hospital | 33. Generator Set Building 4 |
| 2. CLC Support | 34. Generator Set Building 7 |
| 3. Vacant | 35. Electric / IT Building 150 |
| 4. CWT Residential Units | 41. Oil Storage |
| 5. Deshon House | 45. Water Pit |
| 5A. Deshon House | 46. Facility Management |
| 6. Laundry | 47. Warehouse |
| 7. Boiler Plant | 48. Fire Station |
| 8. Plumbing & General Mechanics Shop | 51. Storage |
| 9. Garage | 66. Storage |
| 10. Garage | 99. Switchgear / Generator |
| 20. Community Living Center | 100. Water Tank (200,000 Gallons) |
| 21. Domiciliary Administrative Building | 127. Picnic Shelter |
| 22. Domiciliary Resident Hall | 131. Information Systems |
| 23. Domiciliary Resident Hall | 132. Smoking Shelter |
| 24. Domiciliary Resident Hall | 135. New Hazardous Material |
| 25. Domiciliary Resident Hall | 136. Hazardous Waste Storage |
| 30. Chiller Plant | 150. Fire Pump |
| 31. Generator Set Building 2 & 20 | TLC. Transitional Living Center |
| 32. Generator Set Building 35 & 150 | |

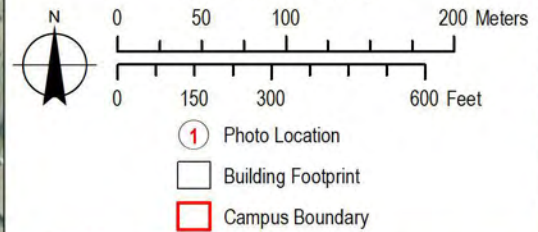
Figure 4: Contributing/Non-Contributing Map



Building Key

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Main Hospital | 33. Generator Set Building 4 |
| 2. CLC Support | 34. Generator Set Building 7 |
| 3. Vacant | 35. Electric / IT Building 150 |
| 4. CWT Residential Units | 41. Oil Storage |
| 5. Deshon House | 45. Water Pit |
| 5A. Deshon House | 46. Facility Management |
| 6. Laundry | 47. Warehouse |
| 7. Boiler Plant | 48. Fire Station |
| 8. Plumbing & General Mechanics Shop | 51. Storage |
| 9. Garage | 66. Storage |
| 10. Garage | 99. Switchgear / Generator |
| 20. Community Living Center | 100. Water Tank (200,000 Gallons) |
| 21. Domiciliary Administrative Building | 127. Picnic Shelter |
| 22. Domiciliary Resident Hall | 131. Information Systems |
| 23. Domiciliary Resident Hall | 132. Smoking Shelter |
| 24. Domiciliary Resident Hall | 135. New Hazardous Material |
| 25. Domiciliary Resident Hall | 136. Hazardous Waste Storage |
| 30. Chiller Plant | 150. Fire Pump |
| 31. Generator Set Building 2 & 20 | TLC. Transitional Living Center |
| 32. Generator Set Building 35 & 150 | |

Figure 5: Photo Map



Building Key

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Main Hospital | 33. Generator Set Building 4 |
| 2. CLC Support | 34. Generator Set Building 7 |
| 3. Vacant | 35. Electric / IT Building 150 |
| 4. CWT Residential Units | 41. Oil Storage |
| 5. Deshon House | 45. Water Pit |
| 5A. Deshon House | 46. Facility Management |
| 6. Laundry | 47. Warehouse |
| 7. Boiler Plant | 48. Fire Station |
| 8. Plumbing & General Mechanics Shop | 51. Storage |
| 9. Garage | 66. Storage |
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| 20. Community Living Center | 100. Water Tank (200,000 Gallons) |
| 21. Domiciliary Administrative Building | 127. Picnic Shelter |
| 22. Domiciliary Resident Hall | 131. Information Systems |
| 23. Domiciliary Resident Hall | 132. Smoking Shelter |
| 24. Domiciliary Resident Hall | 135. New Hazardous Material |
| 25. Domiciliary Resident Hall | 136. Hazardous Waste Storage |
| 30. Chiller Plant | 150. Fire Pump |
| 31. Generator Set Building 2 & 20 | TLC. Transitional Living Center |
| 32. Generator Set Building 35 & 150 | |



Photo 1 of 29. Butler VA Hospital Historic District, Butler Township, Pennsylvania. December 2020.



Photo 2 of 29. Butler VA Hospital Historic District, Butler Township, Pennsylvania. December 2020.



Photo 3 of 29. Butler VA Hospital Historic District, Butler Township, Pennsylvania. December 2020.



Photo 4 of 29. Butler VA Hospital Historic District, Butler Township, Pennsylvania. December 2020.



Photo 5 of 29. Butler VA Hospital Historic District, Butler Township, Pennsylvania. December 2020.



Photo 6 of 29. Butler VA Hospital Historic District, Butler Township, Pennsylvania. December 2020.



Photo 7 of 29. Butler VA Hospital Historic District, Butler Township, Pennsylvania. December 2020.



Photo 8 of 29. Butler VA Hospital Historic District, Butler Township, Pennsylvania. December 2020.



Photo 9 of 29. Butler VA Hospital Historic District, Butler Township, Pennsylvania. December 2020.



Photo 10 of 29. Butler VA Hospital Historic District, Butler Township, Pennsylvania. December 2020.



Photo 11 of 29. Butler VA Hospital Historic District, Butler Township, Pennsylvania. December 2020.



Photo 12 of 29. Butler VA Hospital Historic District, Butler Township, Pennsylvania. December 2020.



Photo 13 of 29. Butler VA Hospital Historic District, Butler Township, Pennsylvania. December 2020.



Photo 14 of 29. Butler VA Hospital Historic District, Butler Township, Pennsylvania. December 2020.



Photo 15 of 29. Butler VA Hospital Historic District, Butler Township, Pennsylvania. December 2020.



Photo 16 of 29. Butler VA Hospital Historic District, Butler Township, Pennsylvania. December 2020.



Photo 17 of 29. Butler VA Hospital Historic District, Butler Township, Pennsylvania. December 2020.



Photo 18 of 29. Butler VA Hospital Historic District, Butler Township, Pennsylvania. December 2020.



Photo 19 of 29. Butler VA Hospital Historic District, Butler Township, Pennsylvania. December 2020.



Photo 20 of 29. Butler VA Hospital Historic District, Butler Township, Pennsylvania. December 2020.



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Photo 22 of 29. Butler VA Hospital Historic District, Butler Township, Pennsylvania. December 2020.



Photo 23 of 29. Butler VA Hospital Historic District, Butler Township, Pennsylvania. December 2020.



Photo 24 of 29. Butler VA Hospital Historic District, Butler Township, Pennsylvania. December 2020.



Photo 25 of 29. Butler VA Hospital Historic District, Butler Township, Pennsylvania. December 2020.



Photo 26 of 29. Butler VA Hospital Historic District, Butler Township, Pennsylvania. December 2020.



Photo 27 of 29. Butler VA Hospital Historic District, Butler Township, Pennsylvania. December 2020.



Photo 28 of 29. Butler VA Hospital Historic District, Butler Township, Pennsylvania. December 2020.



Photo 29 of 29. Butler VA Hospital Historic District, Butler Township, Pennsylvania. December 2020.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Butler Veterans Administration Hospital Historic District

Multiple Name: United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958 MPS

State & County: PENNSYLVANIA, Butler

Date Received:
4/14/2022

Date of Pending List:
4/29/2022

Date of 16th Day:
5/16/2022

Date of 45th Day: Date of Weekly List:
5/31/2022

Reference number: MP100007743

Nominator: Federal Agency, SHPO

Reason For Review:

☒ Accept ☐ Return ☐ Reject 5/27/2022 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: AOS: Health/Medicine, Politics/Government, Architecture; POS: 1938-1958; LOS: State. Nominated under the United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958 MP Cover. The Butler VA hospital reflects three historic eras: the tuberculosis hospital, the Army's Deshon General Hospital period, and the VA Third Generation period. Architect: Edward B. Lee.

Recommendation/ Criteria NR Criteria: A and C.

Reviewer Lisa Deline

Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2239

Date

5/27/2022

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Office of Construction & Facilities Management
WASHINGTON DC 20420

April 14, 2022

Sherry Frear, Chief and Deputy Keeper
National Register of Historic Places & National Historic Landmarks Program
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW, Room 7213
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Sherry:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is pleased to submit the enclosed National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Butler VA Hospital, in Butler, Pennsylvania, as part of our multiple property cover, *United States Third Generation Veterans Hospitals, 1946-1958*.

If you have questions regarding the nomination, please feel free to contact me. I can be reached at 202-820-3981.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Héctor M. Abreu-Cintrón", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Héctor M. Abreu-Cintrón
Federal Preservation Officer

Encl.